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WHAT IF? X-MEN DEADLY GENESIS



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"FOR YEARS MAGNETO'S BROTHERHOOD OF MUTANTS HID BEHIND THE LEGITIMACY OF AN INDEPENDENT STATE, LAUNCHING ATTACKS ON THE USA AND EUROPE WITH APPARENT IMPUNITY.

"BUT WHEN THE UNITED NATIONS FINALLY WITHDREW ITS RECOGNITION OF GENOSHA'S SOVEREIGNTY, THE GLOVES CAME OFF IN SPECTACULAR FASHION.



WHAT IF XAVIER'S SECRET SECOND TEAM HAD SURVIVED?



"THE TEAM, LED BY VULCAN, TOOK DOWN MAGNETO AND HIS FOLLOWERS IN A CLINICALLY EFFICIENT OPERATION.



"IN THE FINAL MINUTES OF THE BATTLE, VULCAN SUBDUED THE RENEGADE MUTANT LEADER LONG ENOUGH TO DELIVER THE COUP DE GRACE...

GENOSHA. THREE MONTHS AGO ACTUAL FOOTAGE

"THIS WAS THE
SCENE AS THE
X-MEN FINALLY
PUT AN END
TO THE REIGN
OF TERROR."

DAVID HINE - WRITER · DAVID YARDIN - PENCILER · KRIS JUSTICE - INKER
GURU EFX - COLORISTS · ARTMONKEYS' DAVE LANPHEAR - LETTERER
YARDIN, JUSTICE & MARTIN - COVER ARTISTS · ANTHONY DIAL - PRODUCTION
NATHAN COSBY · ASSISTANT EDITOR · MARK PANICCIA · EDITOR
JOE QUESADA · EDITOR IN CHIEF · DAN BUCKLEY · PUBLISHER

"...A HELMET DESIGNED BY
CHARLES XAVIER TO NEUTRALIZE
MAGNETO'S MUTANT POWER."

"AS LONG AS
HE WEARS IT,
MAGNETO IS
JUST ONE
MORE HOMO
SAPIENS."

YOU'RE A
MUTANT, BOY. ONE
DAY THEY'LL TURN
ON YOU.

WOLVES
DO NOT LIE
DOWN WITH
LAMBS!

YOU THINK
THIS IS A VICTORY?
YOU THINK YOU HAVE
WON ANYTHING
HERE?

WE EAT
THEM.





NOW IT'S BEEN SAID THAT WITHOUT VULCAN'S LEADERSHIP AND EXAMPLE, RELATIONS BETWEEN HUMANS AND MUTANTS MIGHT HAVE TAKEN A VERY DIFFERENT COURSE.

BUT WHO IS THE MAN BEHIND THE COSTUME?



WE'VE PUT TOGETHER A SHORT MOVIE, RE-CREATING KEY MOMENTS FROM VULCAN'S CAREER.

OF COURSE THERE WERE NO CAMERAS TO RECORD THESE EVENTS--

--SO WHAT WE'RE SEEING HERE ARE ACCURATE RECONSTRUCTIONS USING THE VERY LATEST C.G.I. TECHNOLOGY.

"FROM THE FIRST, VULCAN'S LIFE WAS MARKED BY TRAGEDY.

"SHORTLY BEFORE HE WAS BORN, HIS PARENTS WERE CAPTURED BY ALIENS KNOWN AS THE SH'AR AND TAKEN TO THEIR IMPERIAL THRONeworld WHERE, IN AN ACT OF UNBELIEVABLE BRUTALITY, HIS PREGNANT MOTHER WAS MURDERED IN FRONT OF HER HUSBAND.

DRAMATIC RECONSTRUCTION



"UNKNOWN TO HIS FATHER, THE UNBORN CHILD WAS KEPT ALIVE TO BE RAISED AS A SLAVE BY THE SH'AR."



*BUT THIS HUMAN CHILD WAS SPECIAL. AS HE REACHED ADOLESCENCE HE DISCOVERED THAT HE WAS A MUTANT, POSSESSING THE POWER TO CONTROL ENERGY.

*HE USED THAT POWER TO MAKE A DARING ESCAPE FROM HIS CAPTORS AND TOOK THE NAME OF THE ROMAN GOD OF FIRE--VULCAN...



*HE KNEW LITTLE OF EARTH'S CULTURE. FOR A YEAR HE HID AMONG THE HOMELESS OF NEW YORK, UNTIL HE WAS ARRESTED AND CAME INTO THE CARES OF DOCTOR MOIRA MACTAGGERT.

*MACTAGGERT WAS RUNNING A PROJECT TO DEVELOP THE POWERS OF A SMALL GROUP OF YOUNG MUTANTS. HER CLOSE FRIEND, PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER, MENTOR AND CREATOR OF THE ORIGINAL X-MEN, BECAME A HUGE INFLUENCE ON THESE YOUNG MUTANTS, HELPING TO TRAIN THEM AND DEVELOP THEIR POWERS.



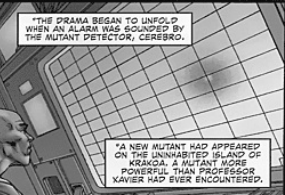
*VULCAN JOINED SUZANNE CHAN, KNOWN AS SWAY, WHO IS ABLE TO SLOW TIME AND REPLAY PAST EVENTS.

*ARMANDO MUÑOZ, AKA DARWIN, THE EVOLVING BOY, WHO IS IN A STATE OF CONSTANT REACTIVE MUTATION, DEVELOPING NEW POWERS AS HE NEEDS THEM TO SURVIVE.

*AND PETRA, THE GEOMORPH.



"FOR THE TEENAGED VULCAN THESE WERE THE HAPPIEST TIMES HE HAD KNOWN, BUT SOON, TRAGEDY WAS TO STRIKE ONCE MORE."



"THE DRAMA BEGAN TO UNFOLD WHEN AN ALARM WAS SOUNDED BY THE MUTANT DETECTOR, CEREBRO."

"A NEW MUTANT HAD APPEARED ON THE UNINHABITED ISLAND OF KRAKOA. A MUTANT MORE POWERFUL THAN PROFESSOR XAVIER HAD EVER ENCOUNTERED."



"PROFESSOR X DISPATCHED THE ORIGINAL X-MEN TO THE ISLAND-- CYCLOPS, HAVOK, POLARIS, MARVEL GIRL, ANGEL AND ICEMAN."



"SOON AFTER LANDING, PROFESSOR X LOST HIS TELEPATHIC LINK WITH MARVEL GIRL. THE LAST THING HE SAW WAS HIS X-MEN BEING ATTACKED BY MINDLESS MONSTERS."

"IN DESPERATION, PROFESSOR X TURNED TO HIS FUTURE WIFE, MOIRA MACTAGGERT. HER MUTANT PROTEGES WERE YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED--"



"--COULD THEY POSSIBLY DEFEAT THE MUTANT MENACE OF KRAKOAT?"

"FOR GABRIEL, THE STAKES WERE RAISED WHEN PROFESSOR XAVIER CONFIRMED THAT HIS FATHER WAS MAJOR CHRISTOPHER SUMMERS, AND THAT TWO OF THE MISSING X-MEN, CYCLOPS AND HAVOK, WERE HIS OWN BROTHERS..."



"ONCE ON KRAKOA, VULCAN AND HIS TEAM DISCOVERED THAT NUCLEAR TESTS HAD TRIGGERED A MUTATION, WHICH LED TO THE ISLAND DEVELOPING A PRIMITIVE FORM OF INTELLIGENCE AND THE ABILITY TO CREATE HUMANOID CREATURES TO DEFEND ITSELF.



"AT FIRST, THINGS WENT WELL FOR THE YOUNGSTERS. THEY SOON FOUND VULCAN'S BROTHER, CYCLOPS, LIKE HIS FELLOW X-MEN, HE HAD LOST HIS POWERS.



"KNOWING THAT HE WOULD BE A LIABILITY, CYCLOPS AGREED TO LEAVE THE ISLAND, FLYING TO SAFETY AND LEAVING THE INEXPERIENCED NEW TEAM TO FIND THE REMAINING X-MEN.

"VULCAN BECAME SEPARATED FROM THE REST OF THE GROUP. IT WAS HE WHO FOUND THE ANCIENT TEMPLE WHERE KRAKOA HAD TRAPPED THE X-MEN TO FEED OFF THEIR MUTANT POWER.



"BY THE TIME HE FOUND THEM, IT WAS TOO LATE. THE ISLAND HAD SUCKED THE LIFE-FORCE FROM THEM.

"THE X-MEN WERE DEAD.

DRAMATIC RECONSTRUCTION



"DISTRAUGHT AND ANGRY, VULCAN ATTACKED THE CORE OF THE ISLAND'S INTELLIGENCE, SETTING OFF AN EXPLOSIVE CHAIN REACTION."

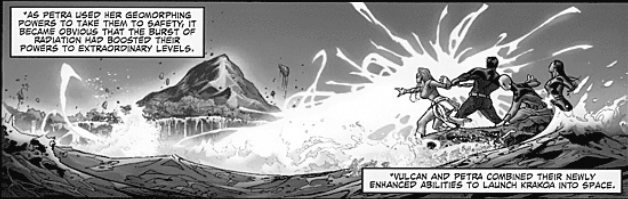


"REALIZING WHAT WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN, VULCAN RAN TO WARN HIS FELLOW MUTANTS."

GET OUT
OF HERE! IT'S
GOING TO
BLOW!



"THE TEMPLE EXPLODED, AND THE YOUNG MUTANTS WERE CAUGHT IN THE WAVE OF UNIDENTIFIED RADIATION THAT SWEEPED ACROSS THE ISLAND."



"AS PETRA USED HER GEOMORPHING POWERS TO TAKE THEM TO SAFETY, IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT THE BURST OF RADIATION HAD BOOSTED THEIR POWERS TO EXTRAORDINARY LEVELS."

"VULCAN AND PETRA COMBINED THEIR NEWLY ENHANCED ABILITIES TO LAUNCH KRAKOA INTO SPACE."



"THERE, DEPRIVED OF WATER AND OXYGEN, THE LIVING ISLAND MUST CERTAINLY HAVE DIED."

"KRAKOA HAS NEVER BEEN SEEN AGAIN, BUT IT IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE, DRIFTING IN THE ENDLESS REACHES OF SPACE."



HOW DO YOU
FEEL ABOUT THAT? THE
BODIES NEVER BEING
RECOVERED?

I THINK
IT'S KIND OF APPROPRIATE.
THEY'LL BE PRESERVED OUT
THERE FOREVER.

WE CAN'T
SEE THEM, BUT WE
CAN HONOR THEM IN
OUR HEARTS FOR THE
ULTIMATE SACRIFICE
THEY MADE.

NOW WHEN
YOU RETURNED FROM
KRAKOA, PROFESSOR X
WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT THE
ORIGINAL TEAM OF X-MEN
HAD PASSED AWAY.



YEAH, THAT'S
RIGHT, HIS PSYCHIC LINK TO
JEAN GREY WAS CUT OFF BY THE
ISLAND'S FIELD OF ENERGY, BUT HE
WAS STILL USING CEREBRO
TO TRACK THEM.

SO HE
WOULD HAVE SEEN THEIR
GENETIC SIGNATURES... THESE
SIGNALS WOULD HAVE JUST
BLIPPED OUT LIKE PLANES
DISAPPEARING OFF
A RADAR.

YEAH.



THAT MUST
HAVE BEEN A TERRIBLE
THING, BUT YOUR BROTHER,
CYCLOPS, THE LEADER
OF THAT TEAM OF X-MEN,
I BELIEVE IT HIT HIM
EVEN WORSE.

SCOTT
WAS DEVASTATED,
HE FELT IT WAS HIS
RESPONSIBILITY.

BUT NOT
HIS FAULT.
HE DID ALL
HE COULD.



ABSOLUTELY.
BUT I CAN
UNDERSTAND HOW
HE FELT.

LOSING HIS
TEAM, HIS OWN
BROTHER...

...AND
JEAN.

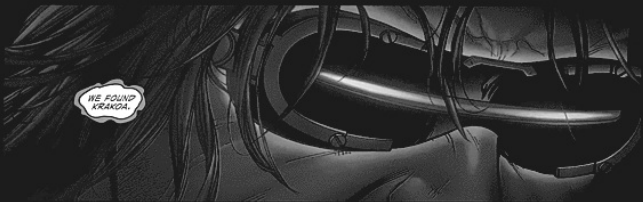
HE AND
JEAN GREY WERE IN A
RELATIONSHIP?



THEY
WERE VERY MUCH
IN LOVE, YES.

SCOTT NEVER
WORE THE COSTUME
AGAIN.





A black and white comic panel showing Charles Xavier and Moira sitting on a dark sofa in a room with a large circular floor design. Charles is on the left, wearing a suit, and Moira is on the right, wearing a dark dress.

NOW, YOUR MOTHER DIED, AS WE'VE SEEN, IN TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES AND YOU NEVER GOT TO MEET YOUR FATHER.

CHARLES AND MOIRA MARRIED SOON AFTER KRAKOA. WOULD IT BE FAIR TO SAY THAT THE XAVIERS CAME TO REPRESENT PARENT FIGURES FOR YOU?

SURE. FOR ALL OF US. PETRA, SWAY AND DARWIN...WE ALL LOST OUR PARENTS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

WE WERE TEENAGERS, WE WERE VULNERABLE AND WE HAD NO ONE TO LOOK OUT FOR US.

A black and white comic panel featuring a close-up of Charles and Moira. Charles is in the foreground, looking slightly to the right, while Moira is behind him, looking forward. A young man with dark hair is seen in profile on the right, looking towards them.

THEN CHARLES AND MOIRA CAME ALONG AND THEY'VE BEEN THERE FOR US EVER SINCE. EVERY DAY, TWENTY-FOUR, SEVEN.

A black and white comic panel showing a group of people in a room. In the background, Charles and Moira sit on a sofa. In the foreground, several young people are seen from behind, looking towards the sofa. One person on the left has curly hair, and another on the right has long hair.

AND WITH YOUR BOOSTED POWERS, THE FOUR OF YOU REPLACED THE ORIGINAL X-MEN AND AS WE ALL KNOW, BECAME THE GREATEST TEAM OF SUPER HEROES THE WORLD HAS KNOWN.

A large black and white comic panel featuring a close-up of Charles Xavier smiling. In the background, there are faint, stylized images of the X-Men in action.

BUT THE XAVIERS CONTINUED THEIR WORK, USING CEREBRO TO FIND MORE MUTANTS, WHO FORMED OTHER TEAMS TO SUPPORT YOU.

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THOSE TEAMS NOW. OUR DESIGNERS HAVE COME UP WITH ONE HECK OF A VISUAL HERE...



*THERE THEY ARE, THE ENTIRE LINEUP OF LEGION X, THE X-PATRIOTS, MUTATION ZERO, AND THE X-MEN THEMSELVES. THAT COMPOSITE IS AVAILABLE TO SUBSCRIBERS AS A DOWNLOADABLE WALLPAPER FROM OUR WEB SITE WWW.FEVERDREAMENTERTAINMENT.COM.



"IF YOU LOG ON RIGHT AFTER THIS SHOW YOU CAN ALSO ENTER A COMPETITION TO WIN A REPRODUCTION OF VULCAN'S COSTUME. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CALL THE TOLL-FREE NUMBER AND NAME THE MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS X-TEAMS IN THAT IMAGE. LINES WILL BE OPEN UNTIL MIDNIGHT, EASTERN SEABOARD TIME.

"THAT'S THE CHALLENGE: HOW MANY OF THOSE HEROES CAN YOU NAME?"



YOU MUST
BE PROUD TO HAVE
PLAYED SUCH A HUGE PART
IN MAKING THE WORLD A
SAFER PLACE.

YEAH, SURE.
BUT THAT PICTURE
SAYS IT ALL. IT'S BEEN A
GROUP EFFORT. EVERY ONE OF
THOSE PEOPLE CAN TAKE
EQUAL CREDIT.

I HEAR YOU.
AND THAT'S... I HAVE TO
SAY THAT'S JUST TYPICAL OF
THE GENEROSITY OF THIS MAN,
WHO'S INSPIRED A GENERATION
OF BOTH MUTANTS
AND HUMANS.



WITH MAGNETO
OUT OF THE PICTURE,
THE LAST OF THE MAJOR
SUPER-POWERED THREATS
IS GONE.

SO.

IS THE
JOB DONE?

THINGS ARE
LOOKING GOOD, BUT
IT ISN'T TIME TO HANG
UP THE COSTUME
JUST YET.

ALWAYS
BE BAD
GUYS...

HUMAN
NATURE IS WHAT IT IS...
AND THERE'S PLENTY
OTHER WORK FOR US
TO BE DOING...

RIGHT. I BELIEVE THAT AS WE
SPEAK, THE OTHER X-MEN ARE IN
ORBIT UP THERE IN SPACE WITH
REED RICHARDS OF THE
FANTASTIC FOUR?

ANY
UPDATES
FOR US?



I ACTUALLY
DON'T KNOW TOO
MUCH ABOUT THAT. IT'S
SOMETHING THE SILVER
SURFER BROUGHT TO REED,
CERTAINLY NOTHING
CATASTROPHIC.

NO GIANT
COMET? NO ALIEN
INVASION?



I'M SURE
I WOULD HAVE
BEEN TOLD.

THE K-TOWER,
DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN.



TERRIFIC SHOW,
MR. SUMMERS.

THANK YOU,
DONDVAN.

THE TEAM'S
BACK. THE PROFESSOR
AND DOCTOR XAVIER
TOO.

I SENT
THEM ON UP.



SO, WHAT'S THE STORY?
I HAVEN'T HEARD A PEEP
OUT OF YOU GUYS
ALL WEEK.

WHAT'S THE
DEAL WITH THE
SURFER?

HE FOUND
SOMETHING.



SCOTT?
MAN, IT'S GOOD
TO SEE YOU...



WHAT?
WHAT IS
THIS?



HE FOUND
KRAKOA.





THAT'S...

OH MY GOD...
SO...ALEX...
JEAN...

THE BODIES
ARE PERFECTLY
PRESERVED.

"THE SILVER SURFER FOUND
KRAKOA DRIFTING TOWARD
SATURN. IT WAS REMARKABLE
THAT HE SPOTTED IT.

"A FEW MORE WEEKS AND
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN
LOST IN THE RINGS."



THE SURFER
BROUGHT THE ISLAND BACK
TO EARTH. HE LEFT KRAKOA IN
ORBIT AND CONTACTED
REED RICHARDS.

I SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
TOLD.

YOU WERE BUSY
SHOOTING YOUR TV
SPECTACULAR.

DIDN'T WANT
TO MESS IT UP FOR
YOU IF IT WAS A
FALSE ALARM.

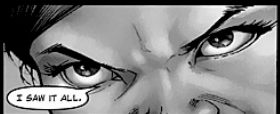


I SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
TOLD.



THERE WAS
A TIME POCKET
PRESERVED
UP THERE,
GABRIEL.

I REPLAYED
IT ALL, FROM THE
MOMENT WE ARRIVED
ON KRAKOA, RIGHT UP
TO THE END.



I SAW IT ALL.





WHUMPP

A wide, horizontal comic panel depicting a massive explosion. In the center, a large, billowing cloud of smoke and debris erupts. Several characters are visible in the background, reacting to the blast. On the left, a man in a dark, tactical suit with a belt is shown in a dynamic pose. To his right, a woman with blonde hair and a headband is also in motion. On the far right, another man in a suit is seen running or falling. The overall scene is one of intense action and destruction.

SCOTT!

A horizontal comic panel showing Scott Summers from behind. He is wearing his iconic X-Men uniform with a cape. He is looking back over his right shoulder at a brilliant, white, star-shaped energy blast that is erupting from the ground. His fists are clenched, suggesting a moment of intense focus or determination. The background shows a cityscape with some buildings and debris.

NOT
THIS TIME,
SCOTT.

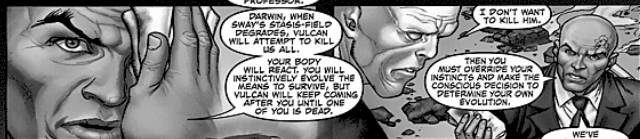
A horizontal comic panel featuring Professor X and Cyclops. Professor X, on the left, is bald and wearing a dark suit. He has a concerned expression. Cyclops, on the right, is wearing his visor and a dark jacket. He is looking towards the bright energy blast with a determined but slightly strained expression. A long, curved beam of light or energy connects the two characters, emphasizing the distance and the intensity of the situation.

I'M SORRY
I HAVE TO DO THIS.
TRULY I AM.

A horizontal comic panel focusing on Cyclops. He is shown from the chest up, his face contorted in pain or strain. His eyes are closed, and his mouth is open in a grimace. He is surrounded by a chaotic, swirling mass of white energy or light. The background is dark and indistinct, focusing all attention on Cyclops and the energy around him.

SWAY,
NOW WOULD
BE A GOOD
TIME...

A horizontal comic panel showing Jean Grey and Professor X in the foreground. Jean Grey, on the left, has dark hair and is wearing glasses. She has a look of intense concentration or concern. Professor X, on the right, is bald and has a serious expression. He is looking towards the right side of the frame. The background is filled with smoke and debris, suggesting the aftermath of the explosion.









I HAVE TO HAND IT TO HIM...CHARLES XAVIER HAS A GREAT SENSE OF IRONY. STATE-OF-THE-ART HOME ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM AND ALL I HAVE TO WATCH IS THAT ONE SHOW.

IT'S A GOOD SHOW, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT FAMILIARITY.

AND THE FOURTEEN IDENTICAL COSTUMES.

WHAT IS THAT? ONE FOR EVERY YEAR ARE THEY PLANNING TO COME GET ME AFTER FOURTEEN YEARS?

JUST TO SEE IF I'VE GONE CRAZY.

MAYBE THAT'S WHEN THE AIR CUTS OUT.

OR THE FOOD.

THE DOME COVERS ABOUT THREE SQUARE KILOMETERS OF KRAKOA. THE FOOD IS AT THE TEMPLE.

ONCE A WEEK THE COMPUTER THAT RUNS LIFE-SUPPORT RELEASES MY FOOD SUPPLIES.

NO WAY OF KNOWING HOW MUCH FOOD IS IN THERE. MAYBE ENOUGH TO KEEP ME ALIVE UNTIL I DIE OF OLD AGE...

IF I STAY FIT, THAT COULD BE ANOTHER FORTY, FIFTY YEARS.

NO DISEASES UP HERE. NOT GOING TO GET HIT BY A SPEEDING CAR, OR SHOT BY A PSYCHO.

I COULD KILL MYSELF.

BUT I WON'T.

CHARLES READ MY MIND. HE KNOWS ME.

HE KNOWS THAT'S NOT AN OPTION...

SWAY CREATED TWO TIME LOOPS ON KRAKOA, REPLAYING THE EVENTS THAT DESTROYED ME. MY GUILTY PAST.

CHARLES DID A GOOD JOB BOOSTING HER ABILITIES. THERE'S NO VISUAL DETERIORATION. THE SOUND IS AS CRISP AS THE DAY I FIRST CAME OUT OF THE FOREST.

RUN!

YOU CAN STILL HEAR THE FEAR IN MY VOICE.

THE ISLAND IS GOING TO BLOW!

BUT IT WASN'T THE ISLAND I WAS AFRAID OF...

THE TEMPLE RUINS ARE STILL THERE. THE FOOD STORE IS BURIED UNDERNEATH IT.

THE CRUELTY OF THE PUNISHMENT IS EXQUISITE. IF I WANT FOOD I HAVE TO COME HERE AT THIS PRECISE TIME, TO THIS EXACT SPOT AND PLACE MY HAND ON THE SENSOR.

THERE'S NO WAY TO CHEAT. IF I TAKE MY HAND AWAY THE FOOD WON'T COME.

I TRIED SHUTTING MY EYES A COUPLE OF TIMES, BUT SOMEHOW, HEARING IT WITHOUT SEEING IT MADE IT WORSE.



SO I WATCH...

THIS IS MY BIG MOMENT. I'VE RESCUED SCOTT AND NOW I'M GOING TO RESCUE HIS GIRLFRIEND AND MY BROTHER ALEX. HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I EXIST AND HERE I AM APPEARING OUT OF NOWHERE TO SAVE HIS LIFE.

HOW PERFECT IS THAT?



WE NEVER KNEW WHO BUILT THIS TEMPLE. WHETHER ALIEN OR SOME LOST RACE OF HOMO SAPIENS. THE PROFESSOR FIGURED THAT NEARBY NUCLEAR TESTS HAD RESURRECTED IT IN A MASSIVELY MUTATED FORM THAT HAD LINKED WITH THE ISLAND'S ECO-SYSTEM...



WHATEVER IT WAS...IT WAS HUNGRY.



MY GOD!
IT'S FEEDING
ON HER.

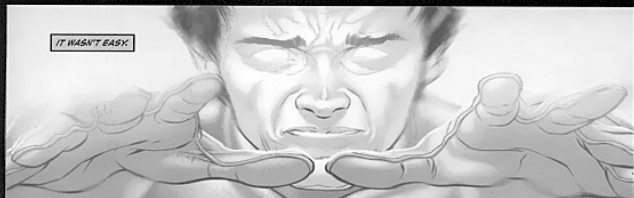
KID...
I DON'T KNOW
WHERE YOU SPRUNG
FROM...BUT YOU NEED
TO GET US OUT OF THIS
FAST...WHILE IT'S...
BUSY...WITH
JEAN...













PERHAPS WHAT HAPPENED
HERE WAS FOR THE BEST.



IF I HAD SAVED THEM, I
WOULD HAVE BEEN A HERO,
PERHAPS EVEN AN X-MAN,
BUT I WOULD ALWAYS HAVE
STOOD IN SCOTT'S SHADOW.

I WOULD NEVER HAVE
SEEN THE WORLD'S
GREATEST SUPER HERO.

THEY CAN'T TAKE
THAT AWAY FROM ME.



IT HURTS, SEEING THEM ALL DIE...

... OVER AND OVER AGAIN...



THAT WAS CHARLES' INTENTION.
IT'S WHAT THEY ALL WANTED.
SCOTT, PETRA, SWAY, DARWIN...

... EVEN MOIRA...



NOT ONE OF THEM
SPOKE UP FOR ME.

THEY ALL WANTED
ME TO SUFFER.



BUT THEY OVERLOOKED
SOMETHING...

IT GETS EASIER...



EVERY TIME IT
HURTS A
LITTLE LESS.

I'VE BEEN ON KRAKOA NOW FOR
FIVE YEARS AND THREE MONTHS.

I'VE WATCHED THEM DIE
TWO HUNDRED AND
SEVENTY-THREE TIMES.





HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU
HAVE TO SEE SOMEONE
DIE BEFORE YOU FEEL
NOTHING AT ALL?

 **END**

ALTERNATIVE EPICS: WHAT IF? 2006!

NATHAN COSBY, ASSISTANT EDITOR • MARK PANICCIA, EDITOR • JOE GUESADA, CHIEF • DAN BUCKLEY, PUBLISHER
MARVEL COMICS 417 5A Ave., NEW YORK, NY 10016 • E-MAIL: INFO@MARVEL.COM

Last year's *WHAT IF?* event focused on stories that all took place in a specific universe. We observed a *Hulk* who grew up on land, a *Reed Richards* loyal to Stalin's Soviet regime, a stoic *Thor* who made a soul-crushing deal with *Galactus* and much, much more.

This year we look at the alternate paths of some of Marvel's biggest events in recent history, asking questions that have been gnawing at the minds of readers since the epics concluded: What if *Wolverine* had never broken free of *The Hand's* control? What if mutantkind had neither of their greatest leaders to guide them? What if the *Scarlet Witch's* systematic dismantling of the *Avengers* was manipulated from within the team's most trusted ranks?

Over the next 60 days, the answers to these and many more questions will leave you with jaw-dropping awe and mind-numbing amazement. You may want to see more, you may be stunned silent by the revelations, you may wish you'd never cracked open the cover to see the "Truth," but whatever the case—once you have a taste of the alter-life—you'll always be asking "What If?"

-Mark Paniccia

forces would come to his aid and what kind of *Peter Parker* would come back to the land of the living?



By Peter David and Khol Pham

WHAT IF? WOLVERINE: ENEMY OF THE STATE

What if the world's deadliest killing machine was never de-programmed? Over half a year has passed since *The Hand* took control of *Wolverine*, forcing him to assassinate one great hero after another. Now only a handful of super-powered beings are left to stop him. Who will risk their life to end the path of death and destruction? Cover by Doug Alexander.



By Jimmie Robinson and Carmine Di Giandomenico

WHAT IF? X-MEN: AGE OF APOCALYPSE

What if *Legion* killed *Magneto* and *Xavier*? With no leader to create any incarnation of *X-Men* to resist the onslaught of *Apocalypse*, the new world is a horrific finalized vision of *Apocalypse's*



By Rick Remender and Dave Wilkins

dream. On the dawn of the anniversary of the murders of *Magneto* and *Xavier*, we follow a small group consisting of Earth's remaining heroes, led by *Nate Summers*, as they stage a final offensive in an attempt to escape this twisted reality altogether. Cover by Marko Djurdjevic.

WHAT IF? X-MEN: DEADLY GENESIS

In the best-selling and history-making mini-series *X-Men: Deadly Genesis*, *Professor X* sent a secret team of young mutants to rescue the *X-Men* from the living island, *Krakoa*, before he sent the now-famous *All-New, All-Different* team. This secret second team was destroyed and eventually led to the deadly corruption of its powerful leader, *Vulcan*. But what if this second team *HAD* survived? Today, *Vulcan* is a celebrity hero who leads a new team of *X-Men*. But when *Krakoa* is found drifting in space, it holds a terrible secret that threatens the fate of this new generation of mutants. Cover by David Yardin.



By David Hine and David Yardin

WHAT IF? AVENGERS DISASSEMBLED

"The *Avengers* have the same unfortunate tendency as ordinary law enforcement. Once we have a perpetrator to hang the crime on, we look no further."

-Dr. Hank McCoy

It was the darkest day in *Avengers* history. Heroes died, the *Mansion* was destroyed, and the team came to an end. But when the *Beast* and *Ms. Marvel* do a "*Holmes and Watson*" style investigation, they discover the *Scarlet Witch* had a shocking partner in crime. Cover by Aaron Lopresti.

WHAT IF? SPIDER-MAN: THE OTHER

In "*The Other*," *Peter Parker* returned from the dead and embraced his "inner spider." But what if he rejected this destiny? What outside

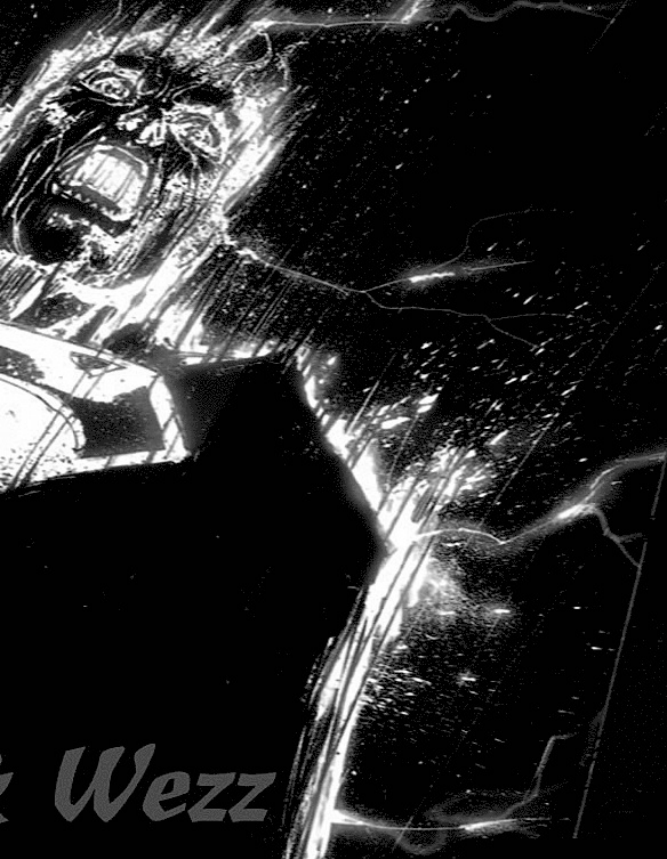
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